

REMARKS

Applicant appreciates the thorough examination of the application provided by the Office Action. Applicant further appreciates the withdrawal of the previous rejections under 35 U.S.C. Sec. 103(a) based on U.S. Patent No. 5,548,454 in view of U.S. Patent No. 5,333,080, and the statement that Claims 31-33, 48, and 49 will be allowable once the rejections under 35 U.S.C. Sec. 112, second paragraph, are overcome. Applicant submits that in view of the above amendments and the present remarks, the application is now in condition for allowance, which is requested in due course.

Regarding paragraph 2 of the Office Action, Applicant submits that the objection to the drawings based on the recitation in Claim 31 of the "inner sleeve-like openings" has been overcome by the amendment of Claim 31 to recite in-part:

mounting on the spindle at least two disks having inner diameter ~~sleeve-like openings with an inner diameter~~ slightly larger than an outer diameter of the spindle, longitudinal spacers providing spaces between pairs of adjacent disks mounted to the spindle along a portion of the length of the spindle, wherein at least two of the disks each have an inner diameter surface that forms at least two lateral protrusions that protrude radially inward toward the spindle; and

Applicant further submits that this amendment to Claim 31 further addresses and overcomes the rejection of Claims 31-33, 48, and 49 under 35 U.S.C. Sec. 112, second paragraph. In particular, as explained above, the previous recitation in Claim 31 of the "inner sleeve-like openings" has been deleted. Applicant submits that the amendment herein to the paragraph on page 5, lines 17-18 clarifies that the balancing weight 46c is provided at a location on the inner diameter of disk 20c, and therefore the related portion of the specification is not inconsistent with the recitations of Claim 31. Accordingly, Applicant requests withdrawal of the rejections of Claims 31-33, 48, and 49 under 35 U.S.C. Sec. 112, second paragraph.

Regarding paragraph 3 of the Office Action, Applicant submits that the objection to Fig. 4 regarding item 46c has been overcome by the amendment herein to the paragraph on page 5, lines 17-18, of the specification.

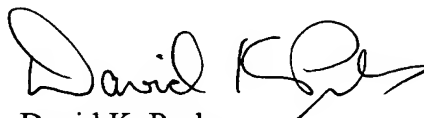
Regarding paragraph 4 of the Office Action, Applicant submits that the objections due to a lack of description of item "32a" in Fig. 2, item "32b" in Fig. 3, and item "32c" in Fig. 4 have been overcome by the amendment herein to the paragraph on page 6, line 24 to page 7, line 5, the paragraph on page 7, lines 6-12, and the paragraph on page 4, line 26 to page 5, line 16 so as to clarify the references in the specification to those illustrated items.

Claim 31 has been amended to remove the word "each" from before the words "have an inner diameter surface", as suggested by the Examiner to overcome the objection to Claim 31.

Applicant submits that in view of the above amendments and the present remarks, the application is now in condition for allowance, which is requested in due course.

If, in the opinion of the Examiner, a telephonic conference would expedite the examination of this matter, the Examiner is invited to call the undersigned attorney at (919) 854-1400.

Respectfully submitted,

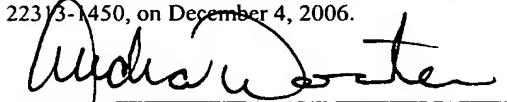


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I hereby certify that this correspondence is being deposited with the United States Postal Service as first class mail in an envelope addressed to: MS AMENDMENT, Commissioner for Patents, P.O. Box 1450, Alexandria, VA 22313-1450, on December 4, 2006.


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